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Message Text

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ACTION EA-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 ICA-11
OES-07 IO-13 OMB-01 TRSE-00 /087 W
----------043095 170255Z /73
R 170137Z APR 78
FM AMCONSUL HONG KONG
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9923
INFO CINCPAC
AMCONSUL NAHA
USLO PEKING
AMEMBASSY TAIPEI
AMEMBASSY TOKYO

C O N F I D E N T I A L HONG KONG 4761

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PEPR, EFIS, JA, CH
SUBJECT: SINO-JAPANESE RELATIONS -- FISHING IN TROUBLED WATERS

REF: TOKYO 6393

1. THE HONG KONG PRC-CONTROLLED PAPER WEN WEI PAO CARRIED THE SENKAKU STORY AS ITS LEAD HEADLINE MARCH 14. THE LEAD ARTICLE, BASED UPON WIRE SERVICE REPORTS FROM TOKYO, WAS ACCOMPANIED BY THE PAPER'S OWN SHORT BACKGROUND PIECE ON CHINA'S HISTORIAL CLAIMS TO THE ISLANDS.

2. CHINA'S CLAIM TO THE ISLANDS (LISTED AS TIAO YU TAI, HUANG WEI YU, CHIH WEI YU, NAN HSIAO TAO AND PEI HSIAO TAO) IS BASED UPON THE VIEW THAT THEY HAVE ALWAYS BEEN A PART OF TAIWAN PROVINCE. THE ARTICLE TRACES THE CLAIM BACK TO 1532 IN THE EARLY MING DYNASTY WHEN FISHERMAN FROM FUCHOW AND TAIWAN FISHED THE WATERS, ANCHORED OFF THE ISLANDS AND BUILT SHELTERS TO LIVE IN "FOR SEVERAL MONTHS."
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3. MORE RECENTLY, THE ARTICLE CITES:

-- THE FEBRUARY 30, 1971 MFA ANNOUNCEMENT CLAIMING THE FIVE ISLANDS AS PART OF TAIWAN AND, "LIKE TAIWAN, AN INALIENABLE PART OF CHINESE TERRITRY SINCE ANCIENT TIMES. THE CHINESE PEOPLE WILL CERTAINLY LIBERATE

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TAIWAN AND ARE DETERMINED TO RECOVER TIAO YU TAI AND OTHER ISLANDS BELONGING TO TAIWAN."

-- HUANG HUA'S MAY 20, 1972 LETTER TO THE UN SECRETARY GENERAL "POINTING OUT THE USG'S ILLICIT TRANSFER AND THE GOJ'S ACCEPTANCE OF THE ISLANDS WAS ENTIRELY ILLEGAL, NULL AND VOID AND NOT RECOGNIZED BY THE CHINESE GOVERNMENT OR PEOPLE."

-- THE SEPTEMBER 29, 1972 SINO-JAPANESE JOINT DECLARATION IN WHICH THE GOJ ADHERED TO THE POSITION EXPRESSED IN ARTICLE 8 OF THE POTSDAM DECLARATION.

4. THERE HAS AS YET BEEN NO EDITIORIAL COMMENT BEYOND THE ABOVE CITED ARTICLE.

5. JAPANESE CONSULATE SOURCES HERE ARE AS PUZZLED BY THE PRC'S MOTIVES AS THE REST OF US. WE AGREE WITH TOKYO THAT NAKASONE'S RECENT CALL FOR CLARIFICATION OF THE SENKAKU ISSUE MAY HAVE PROMPTED CHINESE ACTION TO STRENGTHEN THEIR CLAIM TO THE ISLANDS IN CASE DISCUSSIONS ARE INITIATED.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
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Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
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Control Number: n/a
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Draft Date: 17 apr 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
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Litigation History:
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Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
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